

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 00899 172059Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /052 W  
-----033133 172103Z /75

O 172027Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6059  
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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BUENOS AIRES FOR PAO/IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, UY  
SUBJECT: UPI CORRESPONDENT IN MONTEVIDEO HELD INCOMMUNICADO

1. SUMMARY. JORGE BRINSEK, UPI CORRESPONDENT IN MONTEVIDEO WAS DETAINED AND HELD INCOMMUNICADO FOR SEVEN HOURS, MARCH 16-17, ON CHARGES OF BRIBING ANTEL EMPLOYEES TO REPAIR UPI OFFICE TELEPHONE LINES DURING RECENT BREAKDOWNS IN PHONE SERVICE. BRINSEK CLAIMED HE ONLY GAVE LUNCH TO WORKERS AND AFTER WORK WAS COMPLETED, GAVE THEM SMALL TIP, AS IS CUSTOMARY. BRINSEK AN ARGENTINE STILL FACES FORMAL CHARGES BEFORE A LOCAL JUDGE, BUT INTENDS TO PROTEST HIS CASE BEFORE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR. BRINSEK EXPRESSED PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. JORGE CARLOS BRINSEK, 32, AN ARGENTINE NEWSMAN WHO HAS BEEN CORRESPONDENT FOR THE UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE IN MONTEVIDEO SINCE MID-1977, WAS DETAINED BY GOU AUTHORITIES MARCH 16 AND HELD INCOMMUNICADO FOR MORE THAN SEVEN HOURS BEFORE BEING RELEASED ABOUT 2 A.M. THE FOLLOWING MORNING.  
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BINSEK SAID HE WAS INTERROGATED EXTENSIVELY, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER LOCAL BUSINESS EXECUTIVES, INCLUDING AN OFFICIAL FROM THE BANCO DE LONDRES, ON CHARGES OF BRIBING ANTEL EMPLOYEES TO REPAIR TELEPHONE LINES AND/OR RESTORE INTERRUPTED TELEPHONE SERVICE. BRINSEK IS INCENSED AT THE ACCUSATION AND CALLS THE ORDEAL "HORRIBLE." AT THE TIME OF HIS DETENTION, HE ASKED TO BE ALLOWED TO CONTACT THE

ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR, BUT WAS TOLD TO "SHUT UP" AND  
"PUT YOUR HANDS UP ON THE WALL."

3. BRINSEK WAS ARRESTED AT THE UPI OFFICE ABOUT 1715  
MARCH 17. BEFORE LEAVING HE PASSED WORD TO A FELLOW  
EMPLOYEE TO CONTACT IO SANDIN AT THE EMBASSY. RECEIVING  
THE MESSAGE AT 1730 THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY ASKED  
EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO NOTIFY MARTIN MCREYNOLDS, SOUTH  
AMERICA MANAGER FOR UPI'S REGIONAL BUREAU, OF BRINSEK'S  
ARREST. THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT IO SANDIN REMAINED IN CONTACT  
WITH UPI LOCAL STAFFER FRANCO WHO KEPT HIM INFORMED CON-  
CERNING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE. ABOUT 0200 MARCH 17  
BRINSEK WAS RELEASED.

4. EARLY MORNING MARCH 17 BRINSEK TELEPHONE IO TO THANK  
EMBASSY FOR ITS ASSISTANCE AND PROVIDED FOLLOWING BACK-  
GROUND ON INCIDENT. ON TWO RECENT OCCASIONS UPI  
PHONE SERVICE HAD BEEN CUT OFF AND BRINSEK HAD REPORTED  
THE PROBLEM TO ANTEL REQUESTING THEM PROMPTLY TO RESTORE  
SERVICE. AFTER SERVICE WAS RESTORED HE HAD GIVEN THE  
ANTEL WORKERS LUNCH AND A SMALL TIP, AS IS CUSTOMARY IN  
URUGUAY. DURING HIS INTERROGATION INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS  
PLAYED A TAPE RECORDING OF BRINSEK'S PHONE CONVERSATION WITH  
ANTEL REPORTING THAT UPI PHONE SERVICE WAS NOT WORKING.  
BRINSEK CLAIMS THAT THIS CONVERSATION IN NOW WAY IMPLIES  
THAT ANY FORM OF BRIBERY WAS BEING OFFIERED BY HIM OR UPI.  
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ALTHOUGH RELEASED BRINSEK STILL MUST FORMALLY RESPOND TO  
THESE BRIBERY CHARGES BEFORE A JUDGE. HE PLANS TO FILE  
A COMPLAINT WITH ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

5. AFTERNOON MARCH 16 BRINSEK AGAIN CONTACTED IO TO INFORM  
HIM THAT HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO APPEAR BEFORE JUDGE OF FIRST  
INSTANCE AT 0800 MARCH 18. BRINSEK TOLD US THAT BOTH  
TELEPHONE AND TELEX COMMUNICATIONS OF UPI OFFICER ARE OUT  
AND REQUESTED WE INFORM MCREYNOLDS IN BUENOS AIRES OF THIS  
LATEST DEVELOPMENT AND ASK HIM TO SEND ASSISTANCE.  
EMBASSY PASSED THIS MESSAGE TO PAO AT EMBASSY B.A. VIA  
NIACT IMMEDIATE SEPTEL AFTERNOON MARCH 17. WE WILL CONTINUE  
CLOSELY TO FOLLOW CASE AND PROVIDE ANY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE  
TO UPI.  
PEZZULLO

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTION, JOURNALISTS  
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**Draft Date:** 17 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** UPI CORRESPONDENT IN MONTEVIDEO HELD INCOMMUNICADO  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PINS, SOPN, UY, UPI, (BRINSEK, JORGE)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014